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➤BOOK NOTICES.◀

ORIENTAL RECORDS.*

Under the general title above given are included two books that are really companion volumes, the one filling out (and completing the other. These books are popular in style, and designed rather for the general reader than the scholar or specialist; the author acknowledges, regretfully, his inability to translate the cuneiform characters, and uses the translations given by such men as the late George Smith, Brugsch-Bey, Lenormant, Fox Talbot, and others.

The books consist of short articles upon different subjects, taken, as it appears, somewhat arbitrarily from the mass of coincidences that can be found between the Bible and the Oriental records. Various biblical passages are taken up; the translations of the records, Assyrian, Egyptian, Arabian, Syrian, Babylonian as the case may be, are given, and the points of resemblance are pointed out.

The author holds the extreme conservative opinion in reference to the biblical narrative, practically denying that any use was made by the sacred writers of antecedent documents; and in some points he thus weakens the very position he strives to establish. At times there is manifested a disposition to find confirmatory evidence in that which is of decidedly doubtful character. For instance, there is given a translation of the Rock Inscriptions as found in the Wady Mokatteb, in the Sinaitic Peninsula; but all the authorities, as the author acknowledges, are opposed to the interpretation given, and it is now well settled that the inscriptions date from a few centuries before Christ, and prove almost nothing in reference to the Bible.

It would be interesting to compare these books with some of the more recent works in the same field, and thus see the great advance made in biblical archæology during the last five years; but for this we have not space. These books served a valuable purpose in their time, but are now in large measure supplanted; and their original usefulness was greatly impaired by the disposition already mentioned to find more than the facts would warrant. If used at all, it must be with discretion.

HOURS WITH THE BIBLE. VOL. VI.†

The former volumes of this work have been noticed in *THE STUDENT* as from time to time they have appeared. This volume covers a period of biblical history, the least known, perhaps, to the average Bible student. The attempt is

* *ORIENTAL RECORDS*. Monumental. Confirmatory of the Old Testament Scripture.—Historical. Confirmatory of the Old and New Testament Scriptures. By W. H. Rule, D. D. London: *S. Bagster & Sons*. 5¼x7½. Pp. 247, 242. Price, \$1.75 each.

† *HOURS WITH THE BIBLE*, or the Scriptures in the light of Modern Discovery and Knowledge. By Cunningham Geikie, D. D. Vol. VI. From the Exile to Malachi, completing the Old Testament. New York: *James Pott & Co.*, 12 Astor Place. Pp. 544. Price \$1.50.